

**City of Kingston Arts Commission
Meeting - Thursday, March 11, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall**

MINUTES

Attendance

Commission members in attendance were: Micah Blumenthal, Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank, Richard Frumess, Lara Giordano, Susie Linn, Linda Marston-Reid and Ward Mintz.

Guests: Jasmine Mitchell, David Schell, Green Kill (made presentation), and Linda Still

Bill Carey, Alderman, 5th Ward has been appointed as the Common Council liaison to the Arts Commission and will regularly attend the monthly meetings.

Call to Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 4:35.

March Minutes

Ward moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Linda seconded, and all agreed.

Minutes Process/Structure

Richard suggested that the process be streamlined and shared so that the minutes can be completed and distributed in a more timely way. We may follow the method implemented by the Arts District Steering Committee in which notes are read back to create bullet points after each discussion segment during the meeting. Susie suggested we take turns recording the minutes. For now, Ruth Ann will continue but let the group know ahead of time when she will need assistance.

Richard emphasized the importance of sharing the minutes with the Arts District Steering Committee and vice versa since there is so much overlap. Ruth Ann will send them out after they are approved at the monthly meeting.

We will also add Bill Carey to our regular distribution list.

Guidelines for Guest Presentations

Linda drafted a set of guidelines for guest presentations during KAC meetings to be posted on the City's Web site. All agreed we should add a contact email. Ruth Ann will coordinate with Eric Tacti. She and Lara offered to check for incoming messages.

Ward moved to accept Linda's guidelines, Richard seconded, and all agreed.

Business Cards

Micah offered to design a card that we can personalize and print ourselves. Initially, we discussed obtaining permission to add the City Clerk's phone number as a central contact number, but Bill Carey suggested that Meghan Weiss may be a more appropriate contact. Ruth Ann will investigate.

Pop-Up Galleries/High School Program/Spaces

Lara gave a brief status report, noting that it is proving a little difficult to line up spaces. She is working with Brenna Robinson in the economic development office to identify possible locations. One that is in the works is the Lobo Building near the High School. There will be two student shows during the first week of June.

Linda described a possible plan to approach landlords of vacant storefront buildings about renting their spaces for \$100 per month and possibly lining up a subsidy from the Ulster County IDA. Since artists are small businesses it may be wise to establish a policy moving forward that would connect landlords and artists in need.

Another option in lieu of rent is to form an agreement that the tenants would improve the spaces in exchange for using them.

Bill mentioned that the City's Corporation Council maintains a list of city-owned buildings and that Winn Morrison is the current real estate agency that handles them. Susie will call Corporation Council.

Linda will make an appointment with Suzanne Holt to discuss the Ulster County IDA and inviting an IDA member to attend a KAC meeting for an overview.

Commission Outreach to Businesses and Nonprofit Organization

We reviewed the list of organizations to whom we will reach out and made assignments. The goal is to meet with the groups before the May KAC meeting.

(1) Outreach Assignments (members will go to organizations):

Arts Society of Kingston: Anne and Ruth Ann
Boys & Girls Club: Lara and Richard
Center for Creative Education: Lara
Everette Hodge Center: Lara and Richard
7/21 Media Center: Micah and Susie
Kingston Library: Susie, Ward
Kottler Gallery: Micah
O+: Micah
Ulster Tourism and Chamber of Commerce: Linda and Susie

(2) Environmental Groups (to be invited to monthly meeting – tentatively in July):

Bringing Back Broadway – Ruth Ann
Kingston Land Trust

Linear Park
Live Well Kingston
Rail Trail – Lara and Richard

(3) Heritage/History Groups (to be invited to monthly meeting- tentatively in June):

Senate House: Richard and Ward
Friends of Historic Kingston: Richard and Ward
Maritime Museum: Richard and Ward
Rehr Center: Richard and Ward

(4) Shirt Factory, Brush Factory: Richard will contact Mike Piazza about coordinating an on-site meet & greet. Micah will coordinate the same at the Lace Mill.

(5) On Hold
Hospital
Trolley Museum
Firemen's Museum

We reviewed the talking points/questions to cover:

- An explanation of the KAC mission and who the Commission members are
- What are your major activities and what would you like to do that your organization does not do now?
- What do you contribute culturally to the community?
- What is your perception of the community/how do you think it is changing?
- What impact might these changes have on your organization?
- Do you collaborate with other non-profits? If so, what kinds of projects are you working on? If not, is there a reason? Any future projects planned?
- What is your vision for what you would like to see in Kingston in the future?
- Do you think that KAC might be able to help your organization in any way?
- What impact could your organization have?
- Would it benefit your organization to have a community-wide calendar of cultural and fund-raising events?

We discussed pieces for information packets, which will include: mission statement, list of members with contact information, sample projects list, meetings calendar.

Policy Regarding Meeting Guests

It came to light that we should determine if a policy regarding guest participation in the meeting discussion is needed – should guests be permitted to join in or just to listen? Bill noted that the Common Council provides time for public comment during general meetings but not during committee meetings. Further review on this subject is needed.

Art Walk

Linda reported that 19 guests attended the first Art Walk planning meeting at the ArtBar. Results of the survey were discussed and it was determined that the best weekend is October 1-2 with a Friday evening kickoff on September 30. Some artists offered to share their studios

and others will need space assignments in empty storefronts and other locations TBD. There will be a \$20 participant fee, which will help cover some costs such as a printed map. Additional revenue will come from ad sales. Linda will be in touch about the next meeting, which will take place in the first part of May.

Green Kill Presentation

David Schell presented information about his new community arts space, Green Kill Gallery, which is a place for exhibition, education and performance on Greenkill Avenue. He invited the KAC members to stop in any time for a tour.

Next Arts Commission Meeting

The next Arts Commission meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 12 at 4:30 p.m.**

The April meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.